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ABSTRACT

This book examines the issue of sexuality education in the schools. Chapter 1, "Sexuality and Sexuality Education: Implications for the Nature of Society," discusses the controversy over the issue. Chapter 2, "Restrictive and Permissive Sexual Ideologies," provides an analytical framework for clarifying conflicts around human sexuality that permeate Western culture. Chapter 3, "Sexual Ideology in the Schools," applies the categories of restrictive and permissive sexual ideology to an analysis of sexuality education in the schools. Chapter 4, "Discovering the Truth about Sexuality," uses a social constructionist analysis of human sexuality to argue that arriving at the truth about sexuality in either a scientific or philosophical sense is inescapably dependent on one's presuppositional lenses for perceiving the reality of how the world operates. Chapter 5, "Sexuality, Moral Pluralism, and the Concept of Liberal Democracy," outlines the fundamental components of a democratic philosophy of sexuality education. Chapter 6, "Sexuality Education: Towards Democracy," explores the nature of democratic sexuality education in the schools, discussing the need for sexuality education to foster in students the ability to deliberate critically between competing ideological perspectives toward sexuality. Chapter 7, "A Democratic Approach to Key Issues in Sexuality Education: Sexual Orientation, Gender Equality, and Unwanted Pregnancy/STD Prevention," discusses, from the viewpoint of a democratic philosophy of sexuality education, three controversial issues in the sexuality education debates. (Contains a biblioghraphy and an index.) (SM)

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